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SECURITY INFORMATION

50X1-HUM

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT [redacted]

CD NO.

COUNTRY Bulgaria

DATE DISTR. 13 Mar. 1952

SUBJECT Concentration Camps

NO. OF PAGES 2

DATE OF INFO. [redacted]

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

PLACE ACQUIRED [redacted]

SUPPLEMENT TO 50X1-HUM
REPORT NO. [redacted]

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Bogdanov Dol Camp

1. The Bogdanov Dol Camp, near Pernik, was opened after the outlawing of the Bulgarian Agrarian Party. At first it was used for interning only Agrarian Party members. After the death of Georgi Dimitrov, 4,000 internees were added within three days, including many Communist supporters of Traicho Kostov.
2. Prisoners were employed in the Pernik coal mines. The norm for a day's work was 15 tons for each two men.
3. Beginning 13 July 1949, the more politically dangerous inmates were transferred to the Belene Camp; by late autumn 1949, everyone in the camp had been transferred to Belene.
4. At the time the Bogdanov Dol Camp was closed,¹ the commander was Dimitur Hadzhiski. Captain Gershmanov [redacted] was commander of the camp guard corps of 50 men.

Belene Camp

5. The Belene Camp consists of three units, two of which are located on an island in the Danube River, the other on the mainland between the villages of Belene and Dragash (sic) in the Nikopol district. The camp commander was Major Nicola Kurtev [redacted]. The political commissar was Boris Cholakov, of Pleven.

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No Change in Class. 50X1-HUM

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Class. Checked for TS S

Date 1 SEP 1978

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6. There were 9,000 prisoners at the camp,² the majority of which were employed on agricultural projects. Work quotas were established for various types of labor; severe punishment was meted to those who failed to fill their quotas. The daily food ration was 400 grams of bread and three bowls of soup. In principle, each prisoner was allowed to receive one 5-kilo food package a month; however, few packages were actually received because camp guards withheld packages as favorite punishments. The average prisoner received only three or four packages a year.
7. Prisoners could receive visitors three times a year, on 1 January, 1 May, and 9 September, although this privilege was often denied them.
8. The island section of the camp was guarded by a cavalry unit which had its headquarters at Pleven; the mainland section was guarded by troops of 2 Engineer Regiment which was stationed in Belene.
9. Captain Gershakov, commander of the camp guards, flogged several prisoners to death. These deaths were reported as having taken place when the prisoners were attempting to escape. During the winter of 1950-1951, 30 prisoners died from cold or starvation.

Kufaldzha Camp

10. The Kufaldzha camp,³ in the Dobrudzha region, was headquarters camp for six smaller camps, five of which were for men and one for women. A total of approximately 14,000 prisoners were interned in the camp group.
11. The prisoners in the women's camp worked in a rock quarry. The daily work quota was to crush one cubic meter of stone. Slisaveta Popantonova, a former member of the National Assembly, was interned at the camp.
12. Because of the isolated location of the camp, food packages seldom arrived, or the food was spoiled by the time of its delivery. The Rabotnicheskoe Delo and the Otechestvannye Front newspapers were the only reading material allowed in the camps. The prisoners were informed that if war breaks out none of them will leave the camps alive.

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3.

Comment: Possibly Kufaldzha refers to the village Kofaldzialar on the AMS M506 1:250,000 Map Series. The village is located N43M1 E2620. Possibly the camp at Kufaldzha is the same as, or a part of, the camp previously described as the Nosharevo camp.

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